

Amendments to the Specification

[0002] The use of so-called “washing machine outlet boxes” made of molded plastic or metal has become widespread in home construction and remodeling during recent years. More recently, such boxes have also been used in connecting other appliances like water filters or ice makers and for connecting condensate drains to in-wall plumbing. The conventional outlet boxes are typically deep enough to receive supply line valves and drain fittings but shallow enough that they fit between drywall installed on opposite sides of 2 X 4 inch studs. A molded plastic frame attachable to the front of the outlet boxes is often provided to cover visible edges of the box or surrounding drywall. Illustrative devices disclosed in the patent literature include, for example, United States Patent Nos. 3,009,167; 4,554,948; 4,716,925; 4,896,381; 5,094,258; 5,247,962; 5,469,882; 5,538,033; 5,577,530; 5,881,999; 6,125,881; 6,129,109; 6,148,850; 6,234,193; 6,321,788; 6,378,912 and Des. 435,635.

[0008] The apparatus of the invention is further described and explained in relation to the following figures of the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a front elevation view, partially broken away, of a preferred combined flush-mount supply line and drain connector system of the invention as installed horizontally in a single stud bay of a wall, with a portion of the cover broken away and shown in phantom outline;

FIG. 2 is the flush-mount supply line and drain connector system of FIG. 1, but installed over a stud and bridging into a second stud bay, with the supply line connections and drain line connection reversed left-to-right from the position shown in FIG. 1, and with the cover shown only in phantom outline;

FIG. 3 is a front elevation view of a preferred combined flush-mount supply line and drain connector system of the invention as installed vertically in a single stud bay of a wall, with the cover shown in phantom outline;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged side elevation view, partially in cross-section, of a preferred flush-mount drain connector assembly of the invention as installed in a stud bay;

FIG. 5 is a rear elevation view of the combined flush-mount supply line and drain connector system of the invention as depicted in FIG. 1, with the entire cover shown in hidden outline;

FIG. 6 is the same structure as shown in FIG. 4, but with the test plug removed to facilitate use of a hose segment for pressure testing the drain waste system;

FIG. 7 is the same structure as shown in FIG. 1, but with the cover removed and with a hose segment connecting the supply and drain sides for use in pressure testing the drain waste system;

FIG. 8 shows the same structure as depicted in FIG. 4, but with the front panel of the drain elbow removed, a drain hose inserted into the drain elbow, and an exploded section showing a condensate line and attachment fitting prior to assembly onto the top of the drain elbow;

FIG. 9 is a front elevation view of separate flush-mount supply line and drain connector assemblies of the connector system of the invention as installed vertically in a single stud bay, with the supply line connector assembly disposed above the drain connector assembly and with the covers shown in phantom outline;

FIG. 10 is a front elevation view of the separate flush-mount supply line and drain connector system substantially as shown in FIG. 9 but installed in different stud bays;

FIG. 11 is an elevation view of a preferred 2-hole mounting plate for use in the combined flush-mount supply line and drain connector system of the invention;

FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional side elevation view taken along line 12—12 of FIG. 11;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a preferred connector strap for use in either of the combined or separate flush-mount supply line and drain connector systems of the invention;

FIG. 14 is a rear perspective view of a preferred dual supply valve holder for use in either the combined flush-mount supply line connector system of the invention or in the separate flush-mount supply line assembly of connector system of the invention;

FIG. 15 is a front elevation view of the preferred dual supply valve holder of FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 is a side elevation view of the preferred dual supply valve holder of FIG. 14;

FIG. 17 is a front elevation view of the separate flush-mount supply line connector assembly of FIG. 10, but showing the two supply lines connecting from the bottom rather than from the top;

FIG. 18 is a front elevation view of a separate flush-mount supply line connector assembly as in FIG. 17, but showing a single supply line connected from the side;

FIG. 19 is an elevation view of a preferred one-hole mounting plate for use in a separate flush-mount supply line or drain connector assembly of the invention; and

FIG. 20 is a rear perspective view of a preferred single valve holder for use in the separate flush-mount supply line connector assembly of the invention in an installation for a single supply line valve as shown in FIG. 18.